

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

5           --The movement of the belt or chain acting as a conveyor is preferably stepped with a step length appropriately slightly longer than the image plate dimension in the direction of movement. The conveyor belt or similar device will thus grip the closest plate of the plate pack in the housing and remove it from the pack before stopping at the end of the step, and the next plate in the pack is subsequently allowed to press against the conveyor. The  
10       conveyor transfers the plate in one or more steps into a position where the reader slide can grip the plate and transfer it to the reading step. The slide may be adapted to make reciprocating movements so as to, after the plate has been read and perhaps subsequently cleared, return the plate onto the conveyor, the conveyor being immobilised over the entire duration of these operations. With its following step, the conveyor removes the plate that  
15       has been read from the process, e.g. by simply letting it drop from the conveyor, while simultaneously bringing the following plate to the location of the reader slide.--.

Please insert a new heading prior to line 34, page 3 as follows:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--.

20           Please insert a new heading prior to line 9, page 4 as follows:

--Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention--.